



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Saturday December 13, 2025**

### **United Airlines touches down in Adelaide, marking the first ever direct flights from the USA**

United Airlines has touched down at Adelaide Airport this morning, marking the commencement of the first ever direct service between South Australia and the United States.

Passengers on the inaugural flight from San Francisco were greeted at the arrivals gate with a number of South Australian icons, including Jurlique, Haigh's and Penfolds to entice them to sample more of what South Australia has to offer during their stay.

The new connection will deliver a huge boost to the economy through tourism and trade, including for business events and conferences. It also means South Australians will no longer have to endure travelling to Melbourne, Brisbane or Sydney, often catching a bus to an international terminal just to connect to a US flight.

Commencing as a seasonal service, the 15-hour flight will operate three times per week until March – with a possibility to increase in the future as demand grows. The flight will operate on a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, with 257 seats, including 48 in United Polaris<sup>SM</sup> Business Class and 21 in United Premium Plus<sup>SM</sup>.

Flights will arrive into Adelaide at 9:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and departing the same day for San Francisco at 2:55pm.

United Airlines is the world's largest airline as measured by available seat miles and operates the most comprehensive global route network among North American carriers.

San Francisco is a major hub for United Airlines in the US, acting as the airline's primary West Coast and transpacific gateway, and as a major maintenance facility. Travellers from Adelaide can take advantage of one-stop connections to more than 75 US destinations previously only reachable with two connections from the airline's San Francisco hub, including New York, Orlando, Las Vegas, Denver, Chicago, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

United has partnered with Virgin Australia since 2022, establishing codeshare co-operation, reciprocal loyalty benefits for Velocity Frequent Flyer members and United MileagePlus members.

#### **Quotes attributable to Adelaide Airport Ltd Managing Director, Brenton Cox:**

Today's launch opens up an entirely new continent for South Australians heading abroad, tourism operators looking to attract US visitors, and businesses seeking new export markets.

This is a core connection in our aviation network vision that has been decades in the making. It is the result of strong collaboration between Adelaide Airport and the South Australian Government, and the confidence and support of United Airlines.

We will now have even greater business connectivity and export and supply chain opportunities with North America – improving links with what is already our State's second biggest export market.

#### **Quotes attributable to Premier Peter Malinauskas**

The first ever direct flights between Adelaide and the United States are now in the air.

This represents a massive leap forward for aviation in South Australia and brings a big economic boost to the state, more visitors and more opportunities for business and freight which will inject millions of dollars into our economy.

The United States is a key str one of the main strategic partners for South Australia, most notably through the AUKUS agreement.

South Australia's trade links to the US are also well established with key exports including wine, meat (especially beef), fruit and vegetables, and even nuts.

The arrival of these direct flights to Adelaide speaks to our state's trajectory. We are now a global destination, and the world is paying attention.

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Zoe Bettison**

Welcoming United Airlines to Adelaide Airport is historic - our first direct link to the United States.

The addition of new international flights into Adelaide is a massive vote of confidence in our state as a visitor destination, and as a place to do business.

We now have more international connections to South Australia than ever before; we are welcoming the world to see all we have to offer.

#### **Quotes attributable to United Airlines Senior Vice President – Network Planning and Alliances, Patrick Quayle:**

Being the first airline to provide service between Adelaide and the U.S. is an exciting step for United and for travellers on both sides of the Pacific.

This new route is about connecting people to places they want to go – whether that's visiting family, opening doors for business and trade, or discovering the world-class food, wine and natural beauty in San Francisco, Adelaide and beyond.

"We're proud to make these journeys easier and to support the growing ties between our two countries, and we thank South Australia for the warm welcome you've shown us.